The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

November 2010 | Volume 6, Issue 11 | Copyright RCT

From The Editor…

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Good afternoon fellow club members.

As I sit here on a sunny November afternoon, I am hearing Joe, KL7AF running his usual pile up. Joe is heard frequently on the bands, usually running the folks who apparently have never worked Alaska. But I hope that none of us would display some of the poor operating practices that I'm hearing today.

Apparently some of the operators on 15 meters today graduated from some radio service where it is appropriate to whistle into the microphone, apparently to "tune up" their equipment. Listening to this mess reminds me that it is long past due that the Radio Club of Tacoma begin an extended HF operating class.

I'm not saying that any of our esteemed members would do a silly thing like whistling into a microphone while trying to tune a radio or break a pile-up…

It's just a small reminder that as the upper bands begin to open, the opportunities to show the whole world what an idiot we are abound! Anyone who has spent more than fifteen minutes on HF probably has already had that opportunity… Lord knows that I've made a few (well maybe more than a few) mistakes along the way…

Let's just remember that as the bands open we should all aspire to the highest standards of Amateur radio operating!

Also, don't forget that this also applies to local operations, especially on the club repeaters. The major difference here is that most of the folks on our repeaters will recognize your voice almost as soon as you make the big one…

…and they will miss no opportunity to remind you of that!

73

Gary WG7X

W7DK BOARD MEETING OCT 1

• Call to order
o present:
President: K7JIL
Vice President: KE7EMW
BOD: AC7JY
BOD: W7AML
BOD: WG7X
BOD: K7AWJ

• Correct and approve Sept minutes. Minutes not available
• **Health & Welfare**:
o W9BYH in nursing home for infection
o Bob Churchward W7RXS SK
• **Correspondence**
o Ken's resignation as secretary, need replacement through 2011.
o Peter taking minutes October.
o John AC7WW November forward
• **Treasurer's report:** $7826.35 on hand. Report distributed.
o Rick over payment of dues when payment made late in the year.
o Open house income line item? Joe will look it up.
• **Committees**
o **Membership** - several new – now up to 321 members.
• Hard copy rosters not done.
• Election envelopes coming soon, all voting members as of next Wed 10/13.
• Why mail rosters this late - still 6mos to next one.
o **Hamfest** - school always late - Larry will shake the cage
• Food did all right
• Raffle made a little money
• Country store $1700 (will confirm)
o Repeater - rcvd from Shirley Murphy the cert of coordination and paperwork on the donated repeater
o **2011 Field Day**: Any volunteers?
o **Puyallup Fair**: any comment - booth was nice
o **Property mgmt** –Frank has brought a list of items to be available for sale to be approved by the board.
• WG7X Gary moves to accept list for the property management team to dispose of as they see fit.
_ Amend to remove antenna/rotator and tower (for use by the club).
• Al W7AML 2nd as amended to read "Motion to accept the list as amended for the property management team to dispose of as it sees fit."
• Discussion that some key committee chairs are not here to amend the list.
• Motions withdrawn
• Property mgmt procedures have been set by the board what is the debate? After approval of list, at their discretion the team approaches concerned parties about items on the list.
• Frank decides to wait to next meeting.
o **Bylaws committee** - Roddney was going to call Pat but has not yet - been a long time since they got together. May need a new chair.
o **Nominating committee**
• Frank
• Al Burleson
_ Some candidates for pres and treasurer, and a few for board positions, all to be announced at the next club meeting.
o **Salmon Run 38 counties** (missed Garfield)
• $2500 incl. pledges,$ 1444 rcvd thus far
• Unfinished business
o Printer needs assessment
o Frank - main concern is the big one is unreliable
• Joe K7AWJ has researched a laser printer all-in-one to replace that big one
_ Printer/scanner/duplex/network
_ Have found one for $389
_ $79 for a 8000pp toner cartridge
_ Works out to about 3cents/page
• Motion AC7JY to allocate funds up to $500 to purchase printer described above
• Passed
_ Expected spend, $466
_ Joe to Purchase
Generators: 2nd has not been started (may have issues).
• Main one is good for years. Needs cable to connect to clubhouse
o Batteries 12 in 2 strings of 6.
• Rich Manson volunteered to hook up and clean up.
• Need charging/maintenance program.
• Switching charger up to 40 amps (powerpole mfg).
_ Repeater committee to decide.

o **ARES needs** - repeater when others are down
• Chuck: Connectors $100 to use the batteries and generator to power the repeater
o Rick KE7EMW move to approve the proposed $100 connector budget
• passed
o Talk of building onto garage for generators
• Or sell 2nd one?
_ Nick wants the 2nd
_ Or we could buy new 2nd
o Could Al email the list to the Board please for agenda?
o Antenna dipole update - good experience with Salmon Run
• Would like to start a tech committee (ad hoc) to plan for supports/infrastructure for antennas for all bands
_ K7MO
_ WG7X
_ W7AML
_ AD7EU
o Motion lights for the steps - already have budget it is in-process.
o Christmas Party still needs chair.
• Jill - in 2004 Nick presented challenge with Mike & Key.
o To make plaque need date and text.
o Board approved it already.
• Alarm codes - difficult to change 6-digit code for door.
o How's the alarm - it's good
• Sealed envelope - needs to go to secretary to be appointed next board meeting.
Rick moves to adjourn
W7AML 2nd
Motion carried

What to do when the Rotator Dies?

Well, if you're Bob W7EXC, you go up there and fix it!

Pictured at left is Bob W7EXc up on the tower at radio W7EXC fixing/ replacing a dead rotator. Bob initially wanted this pix to be captioned with something about an "Armstrong Rotator"… Whatever that is…

Just kidding Bob!!

Pneumatic Antenna-line Launcher

Designed and built by Steve AD7VL Documented by Brian K7ZRZ

(ED note): Full details and picture are available at:

http://bingoldsby.com/LauncherDetail.pdf

Pneumatic Antenna Line Launcher
Parts List & Diagram

PVC - Valve, Barrel, & Various Connectors

1 -1 1/4" Pipe Section - 38" long
1 -1 1/4" Male Adaptor (threaded one end - slip on other)
1 -1 1/4' Threaded Pipe Cap - for barrel thread protector (Optional)
1 -1 1/4" Female Adaptor (threaded one end - slip on other)
1 -1 1/4" x 1" Reducing Flush Bushing
1 -Length (2 1/2" long) 1" pipe - (connector section)
1 -1" Ball Valve (red handle)
1 -Length (2 1/2" long) 1" pipe - (connector section)
1 -2" x 1" Reducing Flush Bushing

Pressure Gauge - Dial type
Tire Fill Valve (Shrader Valve)
ABS -Pressure Tank Section
1 -4" x 2" Reducing Flush Bushing (no sholder)
1 -4" (hub x hub) Coupling
1 -24" length ABS pipe
1 -4" Slip Cap

Shuttle (Projectile)
1 -3/4" PVC pipe section 3" long
2 -3/4" end caps (domed end)
1 -Eye-screw

Glues
PVC -Clear
ABS -Black
PVC/ABS transitional glue - Green

Construction and Use Details

The Air-Cannon antenna-line launcher shown on the previous page, and on other pages in this web-site, is constructed from a mix of ABS and PVC plastic plumbing parts. All these parts are readily available from most plumbing parts stores and from the large home building supply houses (Home Depot, for one example).

All the ABS and PVC parts are glued with the exception of the threaded parts at the union of the barrel and the tank/valve sections (and also the filler valve and pressure gauge - which might need to be unmounted for transport or shipping). Three types of glue must be used for the assembly of the parts - Clear PVC, Black ABS, and a Green "transitional glue" used for gluing the ABS part to the next PVC part. If the pipe is very clean or new, then primer or prep solution shouldn't be needed. The air chamber must be completely airtight and be able to maintain a pressure load, so assembly of the glued parts must be done with great care and with total seal integrity. Each of the launchers produced thus far have been tested to 100 pounds air pressure.

A standard tire fill valve (Schrader valve) is mounted on the side of the air tank as well as a dial-type air pressure gauge, which can be found as an inexpensive tire gauge with the chuck end removed, leaving the threaded stem. Each of these two devices should be inserted into holes in the upper collar of the tank just behind the ball valve - in the position shown in the diagram above. That location provides the thickest section of pipe to be drilled and thread/tapped to match the valve and gauge stems. These two devices can be obtained from a local hardware store such as ACE or TrueValue. White Teflon pipe tape could be used if needed to provide an adequate seal.

The launcher is charged with compressed air from an air compressor, a CO2 bottle fitted with regulator and tire fill chuck, or even a bicycle tire pump. Nominal pressure for normal line launching will be about 25 to 40 lbs, depending on the height of the trees being mounted and the lateral distance desired for the projectile to draw the lead-line (if surmounting more than one tree or mounting structure in one shot).

The projectile (shuttle) is made from pieces of PVC pipe of a size to just clear the inside dimension of the barrel. No wadding or packing around the shuttle is required. The end of the shuttle has an eye-screw mounted into it, and a "leader line" of some lightweight material is attached. That leader line can be monofilament fishing line, stranded high-test fishing leader line, 50 lb. twisted Dacron kite line, or something similar. It needs to be strong and very lightweight, while being slippery enough to draw over tree branches easily. Weight.. in the form of BBs or other internal packing material, to bring the shuttle-weight up to about 4.3 ounces or a little more, is required to insure that the shuttle is heavy enough to bring the leader line all the way back down to the ground or otherwise within reach from the ground.

The leader line can either be wound on a spool such as the 6-inch "Gator Yo-Yo Fishing Reel" - shown in the pictures on the Inverted LAntenna Tutorial page - or can also be reeled off and back onto a standard bale-type fishing pole reel, attached up near the end of the barrel. The Yo-Yo Reel allows for the most effective and unhampered line "payout," and is very easy to use for reeling in the line after a shoot.

The use of the launcher is completely straight forward... pressurize, drop shuttle with line attached into the barrel (eye inward or outward - doesn't matter), aim, and quickly open the red-handled Ball -Valve. Practice shots with a reasonably small amount of pressure to begin with are encouraged, so as to get a feel for the distance and accuracy of the shots. Wind will effect the accuracy somewhat, although the 4 to 5 oz. shuttle will generally travel fairly straight, even in a stiff breeze.

CAUTION: Great care and common sense must always be maintained when using this kind of launcher. It must not be used by inexperienced or underage persons, and never for any purpose than that which is described here in this document. NEVER point and shoot any kind of projectile from this launcher at any person or animal. No intent for this device to be used as a weapon is herein expressed or implied.

10-29-2010

Left: Bruce WE7P and Chuck AC7QN shoveling dirt outa the trench for the wiring..

Above: Rich KR7W adds water to the instant concrete in the hole for the lamp post.

Left: Ms Pat WT7N is the group's Gardening expert working on the Shrubs.

CLUBHOUSE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT…

On Halloween, members of the DK Little Achievers converged at the RCT Clubhouse to continue the 'outside lighting' project.

Bruce WE7P, Chuck AC7QN, Ms Pat WT7N, and Rich KR7W dug a trench, installed electrical conduit, set a post, and cleaned up some rogue foliage.

This work is part of installing safety lighting around the clubhouse. This days effort is to install a light to illuminate the concrete steps between the clubhouse front porch and the public sidewalk. It was an ideal fall day and all had a good time . Next months report will show the finished product. Fotos by Joe K7AWJ and Rich KR7W.

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more…

Sparky's *welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

- *Mystery photo*
- *Around the Club*
- *Now the Election*
- *ARRL and such*
- *Attaboys*
- *View from the Shack*

Mystery Photo

This month's mystery photo is a key part of the Radio Club of Tacoma History.

You can probably tell from the photo that it's a relatively current photo, but we can assure you the building has been there since the late 1920's.

Around the Club...

Last Saturday Open House/Swapmeets continue to draw good attendance, and of course some ham gear bargains. If you haven't visited lately, you should drop in for Coffee, Donuts, and on the last Saturday Dogs and Chili.

As the year winds down, the bands seem to show signs of heating up a bit. Fall is a great time to get on the air and get some fun out of amateur radio. Sweepstakes , some upcoming CW events and of course the popular Straight Key night at the club are among the many choices…

If you haven't already, get that Salmon Run pledge check in the mail — we had a great contest, missed the golden ring by only one county, but there's always next year...

Tuesday Night Net… Sparky has n.

Now the Election…

Nominations have been made, ballots sent and the election count will happen at the first Membership Meeting in November. Sparky notes that it can be important to attend. One recent election count resulted in a tie, and according to the club By-Laws, when that happens a majority vote of eligible members present at the meeting will decide the tie..

CONVERSATIONS

Hope Springs Eternal

Or should that be "Falling In Love Again"? I am referring, of course, to the beginning of contest season as autumn brushes broad its palette across the hills and valleys of North America. If baseball is in the post-season, can CQ Worldwide and ARRL Sweepstakes be far away? I think not.

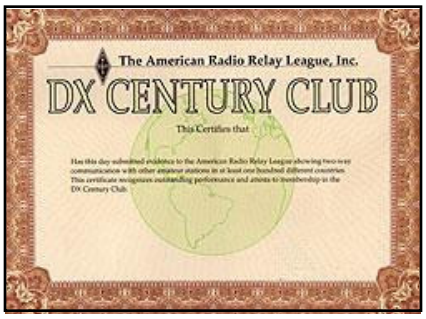
Here and there, last-minute antenna projects are taking shape in increasing haste as the afternoon shadows lengthen earlier and fingers get a little stiffer in the cooler evenings of fall. The HF bands have vivified a bit and the Top Banders are agog from a good start to the trans-oceanic months, too. October seasons every State, Province, and Country with pinches of prestidigitation for the radio amateur. Take a few minutes to savor those outdoor hours, whether you are launching a line upwards or resting comfortably in your harness after a climb up the tower. In the warm, yellow light, the bravura of colorful hillsides and thickets make for a memorable view. I have been known to ascend a ways just to get up above the ground and listen to the wind and the rustle of dry leaves that before the hurricane will surely fly, even once surprising a passing flock of geese descending to a landing on their journey south.

You can almost feel the signals in an autumnal antenna, so full of promise and anticipation! I don't know what it is, but the soldering is done a little more thoroughly, the knots tied a bit more ship-shape, and the U-bolts snugged up just right between Labor Day and Halloween. It's a well-known secret fable that volts are just a little juicier after the equinox! Even the electrons know, don't they?

So, here's to those of you out there in the back yard, on the rooftop, and at the top rung, wrestling wire or armstronging aluminum against the coming winter - and to our southern siblings just now getting entering their vernal season - I toast you with a cup of apple cider, inhaling the tang of fallen leaves and squinting skyward at the antenna farm festooning the trees and towers. Is it big enough and high enough? Of course not, but it's ready - and so am I. See you on the bands!

73, Ward NØAX

DX News: ARRL DXCC Desk Approves Six 2010 Operations



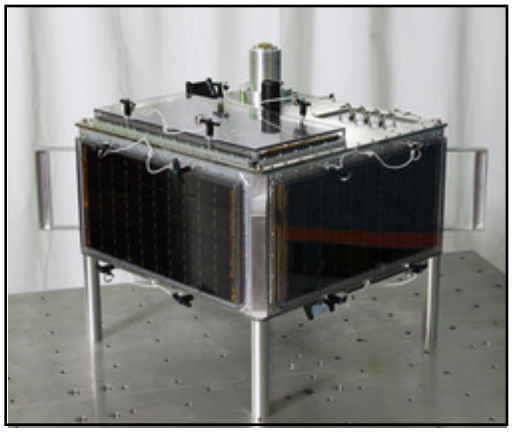
ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that six 2010 operations -- Afghanistan (T6MB), Bhutan (A51A) and Burundi (9U1RSI, 9U4T, 9U1KI and 9U1VO) have been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards that were recently rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk," Moore said. "Results will appear in Logbook of The World (LoTW) accounts, as well as online on the daily listings."

Solar Update

Tad "The rain exploded with a mighty crash as we fell into the Sun" Cook, K7RA, reports: Although this week saw a high daily sunspot number of 74 on October 26, the average sunspot number for the week dropped more than five points to 50.3. One new sunspot group, numbered 1119, emerged this week, but 1117 -- which has been visible since October 19 -- has become huge. On Wednesday, October 27, it measured 450 millionths of a solar hemisphere, larger than any single sunspot group this year. Look for more information -- including some information from Stu Phillips, K6TU, on how to calculate signal strengths for SSB and CW signals over the same paths shown in WSPR data -- on the ARRL Web site on Friday, October 29. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Paul McCartney's Band on the Run. *The Sun, as seen on Thursday, October 28, 2010 from NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope. This MDI (Michelson Doppler Imager) image was taken in the continuum near the Ni I 6768 Angstrom line. The most prominent features are the sunspots. This is very much how the Sun looks in the visible range of the spectrum.*

+ *Amateur Radio in Space*: ARISSat-1 "Suits Up" for February 2011 Launch

Earlier this year, astronauts living on the International Space Station had to discard two surplus Orlan space suits. With the loss of the suits, those involved with AMSAT and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station were at a loss. One of these suits was to be used to house the electronics for the upcoming SuitSat-2 mission: the batteries were to be mounted inside the suit, solar panels attached to the extremities with the electronics, with video cameras and an antenna mounted on the helmet. But even though the removal of the space suits took away the "Suit" component of the deployment, AMSAT and ARISS forged ahead, changing the configuration of the satellite and Amateur Radio experiment and giving it a new name: ARISSat-1/RadioSkaf-V. Read more here.



ARISSat-1/RadioSkaf-V is a six-sided, cube-shaped satellite with solar panels on all six sides. A 70 cm quarter-wave whip will be mounted on the bottom and a 2 meter quarter wave whip on the top. All of the hardware and software will go inside, with the cameras on the outside. [Photo courtesy of the ARISSat Team]

Attaboys:

Anyone who has been to the clubhouse in the last few months have seen the results of a lot of ongoing work by the "little achievers" and Acme engineering. The clubhouse sports new lighting, a tidy yard and the work continues to make our clubhouse a better place to do what we do. Thanks to Al N7OMS, Rich KR7W, Bruce WE7P, Chuck AC7QN, and Pat WT7N for lots of work much of which is behind the plasterboard and in the attic and eves. Thanks too to Al AC7BU for keeping the lawn spiffy. A tip of Sparky's hat goes to Maury W7OT who organized the club meeting refreshments operations by cleaning up the coffee pots organizing the gear and setting up a rotating roster of folks willing to take on the refreshment tasks for a month at a time.

View from the Shack…

Next month the club holds its annual **Christmas dinner and Awards Banquet**… Sparky understands the planning team is already getting underway to make sure we celebrate our year, recognize our volunteers and share a Christmas meal.

Sparky

"If you must choose between two evils, try the one you've never tried before."

The Disclaimer…
These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Rich KR7W, work 'em during last month's Salmon run.

The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

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Club Officers

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Vice Pres: Rick Rose, KE7EMW, 253-581-7673 rick-rose@comcast.net
Secretary: Temporarily vacant...
Treasurer: Joe Lester 73radio@gmail.com

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ADVERTISE in the BARK: $60.00 full page, $30.00 half page, $15.00 quarter page, $5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.
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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:

NOVEMBER 2010 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays November 10th and 24th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday November 3rd 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .